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TAGS: ECE, OCON, ECON

SUBJ: ECE A SENIOR ECONOMIC ADVISERS, AD HOC MEETING OF EXPERTS
ON THE OVERALL ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE (OEP)

REF: A) STATE 215456; B) STATE 219958

1. SUMMARY: THREE-DAY DISCUSSION OF REVISED PRELIMINARY
VERSION OF OVERALL ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE FOR ECE REGION
UP TO 1990 MADE IT CLEAR THAT SENIOR ECONOMIC ADVISERS
FAR FROM IN AGREEMENT ON DOCUMENT. MORE THAN HALF OF MEETING
HELD SEPTEMBER 6 - 10 DEVOTED TO STATEMENTS FROM BOTH WESTERN
AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES REGARDING WHAT THEY SEE AS
INACCURACIES AND IMBALANCE IN PRESENT VERSION OF REPORT.
WITH SINGLE POINT OF AGREEMENT BEING THAT OEP NEEDS MUCH
WORK, MEETING ESTABLISHED PRIORITIES AND TIME-TABLE FOR
RE-WORKING PRESENT VERSION. EFFORT ALSO MADE DURING
MEETING TO PULL TOGETHER IN A CHART OR MATRIX THE ECE
PROJECTS AND RELATED STUDIES ON OEP WHICH ARE UNDERWAY
OR WILL BE UNDERTAKEN UP TO END OF 1977. SPECIFICS
OF SEMINAR ON FACTORS OF GROWTH AND INVESTMENT POLICIES:
AN INTERNATIONAL APPROACH " TO BE HELD DECEMBER 6-10,
1976 IN BUDAPEST WERE DISCUSSED AS WELL AS TENTATIVE
PLANNING FOR SEMINAR IN FALL OF 1977 ON "LONG-TERM
STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT, INCOME DISTRIBUTION

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AND CONSUMPTION" WHICH FRANCE OFFERED TO HOST. U.S.
PROPOSAL FOR SEMINAR TO BE HELD IN 1978 OR LATER ON GENERAL

SUBJECT OF "ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INSTITUTIONS IN EAST-WEST ECONOMIC RELATIONS" WAS EXPANDED AND RECEIVED WIDESPREAD SUPPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. HAEDER (GDR) AND THUR (CANADA) WERE ELECTED CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN RESPECTIVELY BY CONSENSUS OF COUNTRIES IN ATTENDANCE, MOST OF WHICH SENT SENIOR ECONOMIC ADVISOR FROM CAPITALS. (WE EXPLAINED US REP SIDNEY JONES UNABLE ATTEND THIS SESSION BECAUSE OF PRESS OF OTHER WORK.) CANADA (THUR), NETHERLANDS (KOOYMAN) OFTEN SPEAKING FOR EC-9 AND NORWAY (SCHREINER) TOOK THE LEAD FOR WESTERN COUNTRIES IN STATING DISPLEASURE WITH IMBALANCE AND INACCURACIES DUE TO INCOMPARABLE DATA FOR EAST AND WEST IN JUNE 15, 1976 DRAFT OF OEP. WE STATED USG VIEWS PRIVATELY WITHIN WESTERN GROUP PER REF A INSTRUCTIONS. SEVERAL WESTERN COUNTRIES STRESSED THAT OEP WOULD NEED CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT BEFORE GOING TO ECE PRINCIPLE SUBSIDIARY BODIES. THERE WAS NO SERIOUS DISCUSSION OF ANY WIDER PUBLICATION IN NEAR FUTURE. SEVERAL EASTERN COUNTRIES ATTEMPTED DEFEND COMPARABILITY OF DATA IN REPLY TO CRITICISMS OF WESTERN COUNTRIES. HUNGARY STATED THAT FAILURE OF EAST-WEST COOPERATION OFTEN DUE TO WESTERN TRADE BARRIERS AND SPECIFICALLY SINGLED OUT EC-9. WHEN DISCUSSION APPEARED DRIFTING INTO EMOTIONAL DISCUSSION OF "RESTRICTIVE TRADE-PRACTICES AND TRADE BARRIERS", US, WITH HELP OF OTHER WESTERN SPOKESMEN, STEERED DEBATE AWAY FROM THIS EMOTIONAL ISSUE. UPSHOT OF FULL DEBATE ON MERITS AND WEAKNESSES OF OEP IN ITS PRESENT FORM WAS THAT MAJOR RE-WRITE IS NEEDED. FOLLOWING IS GENERAL SCENARIO AGREED UPON FOR RE-DRAFTING TIME-TABLE:

A. OEP PART I - "GENERAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PATTERNS: OBJECTIVES AND CHARACTERISTICS" - PART I WAS GIVEN FIRST PRIORITY FOR RE-DRAFTING. KOOYMAN SAID EC-9 WILL SUBMIT BY MID-OCTOBER DETAILED, WRITTEN COMMENTS ON IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED IN PRESENT DRAFT. ECE/PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMING DIVISION WILL THEN RE-DRAFT PRESENT VERSION. THIS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO EDITORIAL COMMITTEE OF SENIOR ECONOMIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ADVISORS IN JANUARY 1977. AFTER EDITORIAL COMMITTEE RE-WORKING OF SECRETARIAT'S NEW DRAFT, NEW VERSION OF PART I WILL BE SUBMITTED TO XIV SESSION (FEB. 28 - MARCH 4, 1977) OF SENIOR ECONOMIC ADVISORS HOPEFULLY FOR ADOPTION. NOTE: PER THUR, HE, KOOYMAN, KARLSSON OF SWEDEN AND VOLOUDAKIS OF GREECE WILL SERVE ON EDITORIAL COMMITTEE. EAST WILL BE REPRESENTED BY ROMANIA, GDR (HAEDER), CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND USSR (PROSTYAKOV). SHOULD USG DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN JANUARY 1977 EDITORIAL COMMITTEE WORK, SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE NOTIFIED BY END OF SEPTEMBER.

B. PRT III - "FUTURE FOR INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS" - PAPER (EC.AD.(XIII)/AC.1/R.1/ADD.1) PREPARED BY C.T. SAUNDERS, CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX, U.K., SERVED AS BASIS OF DISCUSSION FOR PART III WHICH IS SECOND PRIORITY RE-DRAFTING PROJECT. EASTERN COUNTRIES THOUGHT THAT PAPER SHOWED IMBALANCE IN FAVOR OF WEST. EASTERN COUNTRIES PLAN TO PROVIDE TWO ECONOMIC EXPERTS TO WORK WITH SECRETARIAT ON RE-DRAFTING OF PART III. NEW DRAFT OF PART III WILL BE DISCUSSED AT XIV SESSION.

C. PART II - "FACTORS AND CONDITIONS OF LONG-TERM GROWTH" - PART II OF OEP RECEIVED THIRD PRIORITY FOR RE-DRAFTING. SECRETARIAT WILL UNDERTAKE A NEW DRAFTING TO BE READY BY JUNE 1977. THIS UP-DATED VERSION WILL BE DISCUSSED AT AD HOC MEETING IN FALL OF 1977 WITH HOPE OF HAVING PART II DISCUSSED AND ACCEPTED AT SV SESSION IN 1978.

3. FUTURE SEMINARS:

A. BUDAPEST, DEC. 6-10, 1976 - TWENTY CONTRIBUTIONS FORM THE BASIS FOR THE DISCUSSION AT THIS SEMINAR ON "FACTORS OF GROWTH AND INVESTMENT POLICIES: AN INTERNATIONAL APPROACH". STEPS ARE BEING TAKEN TO HOLD A PANEL DISCUSSION ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE SEMINAR.

B. 1977 SEMINAR ON "LONG-TERM STRUCTURAL CHANGES IN EMPLOYMENT, INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND CONSUMPTION" - FRANCE OFFERED TO HOST THIS SEMINAR SEPTEMBER 5 - 15, 1977. A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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GENERAL TIME-TABLE FOR PREPARATIONS FOR THIS SEMINAR WAS DISCUSSED. SECRETARIAT WILL SOON RELEASE A CIRCULAR LETTER OUTLINING TIME-TABLE AND REQUESTING CONTRIBUTIONS. SECRETARIAT HOPES TO RECEIVE SUBJECT TITLES FROM CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES BY END OF OCTOBER.

C. US SUGGESTED POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR FUTURE SEMINARS PER REFTEL A. FIRST OF REFTEL A PROPOSALS RECEIVED WIDESPREAD SUPPORT ALTHOUGH THE SUBJECT WAS CONSIDERABLY EXPANDED. CONSENSUS SEEMED TO DEVELOP AROUND GENERAL SUBJECT OF INSTITUTIONS, FORMS AND LONG-TERM ORIENTATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN DIFFERENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS. PREPARATIONS FOR THIS SEMINAR WILL BE DISCUSSED AT XIV SESSION.

D. SEMINAR ON PLANNING METHODOLOGY - THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN HOLDING A SEMINAR IN 1979 OR THEREAFTER ON METHODOLOGY OF COMPLEX DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAMMES.

4. WILL POUCH MEETING DOCUMENTATION AND BACKGROUND
PAPERS AS SOON AS REVISED MEETING REPORT RECEIVED.CATTO

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Message Attributes

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